[English]

Naval Academy, Ezimala

744. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of work completed and allocations made for the Naval Academy project at Ezimala in Cannanore, Kerala as on October 31, 1997;

(b) whether the work is progressing as per the time/cost schedule; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The civil works regarding renovation and addition/alteration of the existing buildings etc. have commenced. The electricity, water, roads and dredging to be provided by the State Government of Kerala are in final stages of completion. A sum of Rs. 300 lakhs has been allocated for the project in the current financial year 1997-98. There has been some delay in the time schedule due to processing of Stage II contract between the Architects and the MES which has now been finalised and the Academy is likely to be ready for commissioning in end 2001.

Misappropriation of Funds

745. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about the misappropriation of funds in Bihar Sharif telecom district in awarding of tender of new project etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Youth Policy

746. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the draft of the Youth Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be announced; and

(c) whether the Government propose to solicit the opinion of young M.Ps before the said announcement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN): (a) to (c) A Draft New National Youth Policy has been formulated by the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports which has been circulated to all State Governments, all Vice chancellors of Universities, all political parties and their Youth Wings, all leading NGOs working for youth, all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and all Members of Parliament, including young M.Ps, to solicit their opinion. The Department has received comments from various individuals/organisations based on which steps have been initiated for finalising the New National Youth Policy at the earliest.

[English]

Rural Telecommunication

747. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the performance of Rural Telecommunication during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof against the targets set for the purpose;

(c) whether equipment supplied for Rural Telecommunication was delayed and in many cases found to be substandard;

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this ragard; and

(e) the details of action plan finalised for Rural Telecommunication during 1997-98 and phasing for Ninth Five Year Plan in general and for Maharashtra in particular?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) Periodic review is being done by the Department of the Performance of Rural Telecommunication. The details of targets and achievements in respect of Rural Telephone Exchange lines and public Telephones in villages are given in Statement-I and Statement-II. The supply of Telephone Exchange equipment for 95-96 was adversely affected due to a number of Court cases filed by different manufactures/suppliers. Equipments supplied are tasted by Quality Assurance (QA) organisation of the DOT (Department of Telecom) to check for their conformance with standards.

(d) and (e) Department has introduced a Vendor Rating System which takes into account both quality and supply performance, besides the price of the offered equipment. Steps have also been taken to further tighten the Quality Assurance tests on the supplied equipment. The plan